



## Georgia Cyber Academy at K12

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Dear GCA Families:

My name is Kevin P. Chavous, and I am the President of K12 Inc.'s managed public school team. For more than 10 years, K12 has proudly provided educational services to Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA). However, in recent months, there have been a number of changes at GCA, and we have been hearing concerns from some GCA families. I am writing directly to you to address these concerns and outline K12's view on these matters.

First, here are the main points I'd like you to know:

- K12 has been a trusted and reliable curriculum and service provider to GCA for more than 10 years.
- Recent academic improvement at GCA can be directly tied to the continued usage of K12 curriculum, and the K12 academic service support and programs, combined with the efforts of students, parents, learning coaches, and the GCA teachers and administrators.
- The K12 curriculum is properly aligned – nationally-known third party analysts have confirmed that fact.
- The GCA Board is not honoring its existing contract with K12 and is putting the school at financial and operational risk. It has also signed multiple contracts in violation of its contract with K12 and is overcommitting public funds – which could lead to denial of GCA's renewal application.
- GCA has put new policies in place, for both new and re-enrolling students, which may result in a negative impact on students with special needs and economically disadvantaged students.

### K12 – A Trusted Curriculum and Service Provider

Over the last 10 years, K12 has been proud to serve the Board of Directors and GCA's families and students with educational services that include our award-winning K12 curriculum, teacher training and professional support, enrollment and outreach services, financial management, and a host of other services that, while often behind-the-scenes, together make it possible for a large, statewide online school to operate successfully.

Frequent state audits confirmed that operationally and financially the

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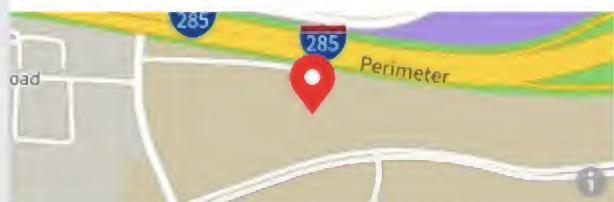
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Frequent state audits confirmed that operationally and financially the school was being well-run and was in compliance with state rules and laws, throughout the years.

#### K12 – A Key To GCA's Academic Success

Academically, GCA students made progress over the past few years, with noticeable improvements this past year. The academic improvements at GCA—particularly in Math and English Language Arts—can be directly tied to the continued usage of K12 curriculum. K12 provides a variety of materials that are shipped directly to each student.

Academic progress is also the result of K12's leadership in creating and supporting a live class attendance policy to increase student engagement, our training and implementation of using what we know about students often in smaller targeted classes, and instructional coaching to improve GCA teacher effectiveness. While GCA did purchase some third-party curriculum and supplemental tools last school year, these were all implemented late in the school year.

Because of K12's curriculum, teacher training, and expertise, GCA was on the right path. Over the last school year, K12 worked with the GCA Board and teaching staff, and used data and best practices gained from our experience working with more than 70 online charter schools in 35 states, to help students at GCA show significant academic progress.

Unfortunately, the GCA Board is putting all that student progress at risk.

#### K12 Curriculum Is Aligned

As many of you now know, just a few short weeks after a new agreement was signed in January 2019, by K12 and GCA, the GCA Board and leadership team allege that the K12 curriculum was not aligned to state standards and that our prices were too high.

Let me be clear: This is not true.

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We have demonstrated to both the GCA Board and the State Charter Schools Commission that our curriculum is properly aligned. We also provided evidence from nationally-known third party analysts that confirms our curriculum's alignment.

### GCA Board Has Made Questionable Financial And Operational Decisions

Even though we were not required to do so, K12 provided both GCA and the Charter Commission with documents that show very clearly that our prices are very competitive with those of similar education services providers, especially because we include many behind-the-scenes services that are often not viewed by the public.

Still, the GCA Board has chosen to ignore these facts and are spending millions of public dollars on courseware and educational services we were prepared to provide this year. They even paid for much of the new curriculum in advance – months before the products and services were ever used and without adequate funds to cover all of these school expenses.

These vendors replace the single, unified K12 curriculum and advanced materials with a new curriculum and courses that will be 100 percent online. The process of selecting, testing, and implementing new curriculum takes a year or two and is difficult.

Independent education experts will tell you: major changes in curriculum require careful investigation, comparisons, testing, and lots of input from all members of a school community – especially parents.

### GCA Board Has Implemented Questionable Enrollment Policies

In March 2019, the GCA Board created a new policy for how and when students would be "held back" and forced to repeat the year again in the same grade. The average rate in the entire state of Georgia is about 2.5 percent. Last year, under K12's management, students impacted at GCA was close to 5 percent. The new policy will, according to GCA, result in as many as 35 percent of all students to be held back for the coming school year. And unlike almost every other charter and traditional school in Georgia, the new GCA school leaders want to make this decision on their own without considering every student's case on an individual basis.

The GCA Board has also enacted a new process for reenrollment, forcing all families to resend all paperwork in order to stay enrolled at GCA,

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The GCA Board has also enacted a new process for reenrollment, forcing all families to resend all paperwork in order to stay enrolled at GCA, regardless of how many years the students had already been in the school. The GCA reenrollment plan was unfair and inconvenient to parents to do in a very short period of time.

Additionally, K12's legal team reviewed the enrollment plan and found several possible violations of federal and state law had it been implemented, including an adverse impact on special needs and economically disadvantaged students. In fact, the Head of School's enrollment plan was in conflict with the Board's approved enrollment policy adopted last year during an open meeting and posted on the school's website and relied upon by GCA families.

In our view, the retention policy and the reenrollment strategy that was finally adopted by the GCA Board, appears to be an effort to remove students who are struggling, and most at-risk.

### K12 Wants to Hear from You

In summary, as much as we are frustrated with the Board's actions, we are more troubled by the fact that you – the parents – have not been consulted on these proposed changes.

Now, we want to do what GCA's Board of Directors is reluctant to do – offer you the opportunity to speak your mind and tell us what's important to you. Here is a special K12 email address for GCA families to express their views and ask questions: [kpc@k12.com](mailto:kpc@k12.com).

Thanks for your time, and for everything you have done to secure a great education for your children, and for all the children in the state of Georgia.

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Thanks for your time, and for everything you have done to secure a great education for your children, and for all the children in the state of Georgia.

Sincerely,

Kevin P. Chavous  
President-Academics, Policy, and Schools



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